

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Drink Spiking - Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault

Question From: Mr Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 24th August 2004

Question:

I refer to increasing concern in our community about drug- facilitated sexual assaults; whereby rohypnol or other stupifying drugs have been used to facilitate sexual assaults. I understand that this serious issue has recently been raised at North Sydney Council. Could Council please consider undertaking an awareness campaign about this issue, particularly by way of provision of information in Council Libraries, Youth and Community Centres and sporting facilities. I am advised that North Shore Hospital conducts therapy classes for victims of drug-facilitated sexual assault and should be able to provide Council with information about the issue.

Response: The Manager Cultural and Community Services advised the meeting that Council is currently developing a key strategy relating to the issue as part of the Safe Warringah Plan 2005 – 2008, adopted by Council on 6 July 2004 and now awaiting adoption by the Attorney General. Priority Area 3 of the draft crime prevention plan outlines the proposed ‘Spiked Drinks Campaign in Warringah’ program, which aims to support efforts to raise awareness by the Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist. Council’s Safe Communities Officer is working to develop and implement the strategy with the office of the Attorney General and the Manly Drug Education and Counselling Centre. The Manager concluded that preparations for the campaign are already underway at Council, in advance of adoption of the plan by the Attorney General.